

Kinsberg, Ruth Sondik, and Sue Faiman for their distinguished careers as educators. The students, faculty, and parents of Taylor Mills School owe them a great debt of gratitude for their commitment to child development and educational excellence.

We all remember a favorite teacher who inspired us to strive to reach our full potential. While Taylor Mills School community will miss the many years of knowledge and experience these devoted teachers will take with them, their personal influence on thousands of children will be their lasting legacy.

On a personal note, I am delighted that Sandra Resnick's retirement will allow her to spend even more time nurturing the grandchildren we share, who, as she knows, are perfect.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these wonderful teachers on their retirement and thanking them for their many years of commitment and hard work.

PROTECT CAMP ASHRAF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS—

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I am very concerned about the safety and security of the 3,400 members of the main Iranian opposition who are residing in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. The United States Government signed an agreement with each and every individual in that Camp to protect them against potential attacks and mistreatment from Iran or its proxies in Iraq. In return for that promise to protect them, residents of Camp Ashraf voluntarily turned over all their weapons in 2003 to the our military. U.S. Military Forces took on full protection of the camp in 2003, and continued to closely monitor it from their base in FOB Grizzly in Ashraf, beginning in 2009. I am concerned for their continued safety as the United States prepares to rapidly leave Iraq.

America has a moral and legal obligation towards the residents of Camp Ashraf. They are vulnerable to persecution by Tehran's proxies. In addition, many family members of Camp Ashraf residents have been sentenced to death in recent weeks in Iran. I have met with many family members of Camp Ashraf who live in the United States, including in New York State, and they are very committed and dedicated individuals who seek not aid but only the safety and security of their loved ones. Many of the Camp Ashraf residents spent years in Iranian prisons and underwent torture and mistreatment by Tehran's henchmen before they managed to leave Iran and take up residence in Camp Ashraf. Many student leaders, academics, teachers, and intellectuals who were threatened with arrest and execution by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Ministry of Intelligence made their way to Camp Ashraf. They are a major source of encouragement for the democracy movement in Iran.

Given the current instability in Iraq, and given the fact that the Maliki Government has stated that it intends to forcibly displace and/or expel the Camp residents, which would certainly lead to further bloodshed, I believe we should be doubly alert about the safety and security of Camp Ashraf's residents. I want to

urge President Obama, and Secretary Clinton to make sure that we live up to our moral obligations. I do not want to see a situation a few months from now, in which we would find ourselves investigating the U.S. role in failing to protect these people.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, when we pass the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, we take a historic step to restore equality in the ranks of our military by voting to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell.

Looking back in our history, social change occurred because of leadership. President Obama, our military leaders and gay Americans have shown leadership to overturn this discriminatory policy. Comparable to the leadership shown by President Truman in 1948 when he issued Executive Order 9981 that ordered the integration of the armed forces, we can be proud that the civil rights of all Americans who want to serve in our All Volunteer Forces is preserved. During its 17 year history, DADT has discharged far too many highly qualified and trained Arab linguists, doctors and mission critical specialists in every field and in every service who simply wanted to serve their country. For the last 17 years I been a Member of Congress who has fought to overturn this policy that has prohibited openly gay men and women from serving in the military.

Madam Chair, as we move forward in the legislative process, you may be assured of my continued strong support for repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell.

RECOGNIZING THE DOBSON HIGH WIND SYMPHONY AND JAZZ BIG BAND, SELECTED FOR THE 2010 SHANGHAI WORLD MUSIC EXPO FESTIVAL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mesa Arizona's Dobson High Wind Symphony and Jazz Big Band, which will represent our state at the 2010 Shanghai World Music Expo Festival in China. I wish to convey my pride and that of all Arizonans in the efforts of these talented and dedicated students, and thank the Dobson faculty and community for its remarkable support.

As a former teacher, I believe very strongly that participation in the arts, especially on such a global scale, leads to cultural enrich-

ment and enhances education and learning across all subjects. This opportunity to perform on a world stage, and the subsequent rush of community support to make this trip possible, is a well-earned reward for the hard work and commitment of the Dobson High Wind Symphony and Jazz Big Band and its supporters. To make this trip possible, band members raised \$3,000 apiece to pay for travel expenses. I believe in the old saying, "it is hard to be successful unless a lot of other people want you to be." So I also applaud all the parents and community members who helped in this effort as well.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Dobson High Wind Symphony and Jazz Big Band as they represent the State of Arizona at the 2010 Shanghai World Music Expo Festival in China. I wish the band all the best during their performance in China and I am confident they will use this trip as an opportunity to learn about a new culture and positively represent our state and country within the global community. I know they will make us all proud.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNUAL MANTUA KIDS CARE CLUB RACCOON RUN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th Anniversary of the Mantua Kids Care Club Raccoon Run. Each year, hundreds of participants and spectators come together for this race to promote charitable action and to celebrate the spirit that makes Mantua the vibrant community that it is today.

The Raccoon Run began in 2000 as a community endeavor to raise funds for Mantua school families in need. Conceptualized by Joyce Montgomery, the initial name was the "Rocket Run" but was changed to Raccoon Run in honor of the Mantua Elementary School mascot. The Mantua Kids Care Club embraced the idea, and became an early supporter of the race.

When 5th grade teacher Roberta Romano was diagnosed with cancer, the race was restructured to benefit a single cause: Life with Cancer. Life with Cancer is a program administered by the INOVA Health System that provides critical support to caregivers and those afflicted with cancer.

Every year on Mother's Day weekend, we come together to honor the memory of Roberta Romano and to support a worthy cause. In the ten years since the race's inception, the Raccoon Run has raised nearly \$100,000.00 and has benefited countless Northern Virginians. As a resident of Mantua, the former president of the Mantua Civic Association, and most importantly, the father of a Mantua Elementary School graduate, I am grateful for the strong sense of community exemplified by this annual event.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the efforts of the Mantua community and in thanking all those who have supported this worthwhile cause. Events like the Raccoon Run are the fabric of a true community and of our society at large.